



**Date:** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 11am CST

**Location:** Eat the Bone

BBQ House

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Introductions and updates from Council Members
4. Updates from State of Illinois-Tarcia
5. Introduction of guest speaker-Neesha
6. Guest Speaker: Will/Grundy NAMI
7. Next Meeting: January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 AM CST -Virtual

## **HLM Recovery R.O.S.C Will/Grundy Council Meeting**

The Heartlife Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council recently hosted a dynamic and meaningful gathering, combining its regular council meeting with a festive holiday celebration. This event brought together community members, stakeholders, and individuals in recovery to reflect on achievements, discuss goals, and foster deeper connections during this season of gratitude and joy.

### **Council Meeting Highlights:**

- **Community Updates:** Members shared updates on ongoing initiatives, upcoming projects, and partnerships aimed at supporting recovery-oriented resources and services.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Discussions focused on strengthening community engagement, expanding access to recovery supports, and addressing key challenges faced by individuals in recovery.
- **Success Stories:** Testimonials from individuals and families highlighted the transformative impact of recovery-focused programs, underscoring the importance of continued collaboration and resource allocation.

### **Holiday Celebration:**

Following the council meeting, attendees enjoyed a festive celebration that emphasized the spirit of community, hope, and renewal. The holiday gathering featured:

- **Seasonal Refreshments:** A variety of delicious treats and beverages provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Music and Entertainment:** Live music and performances added to the festive spirit, encouraging relaxation and camaraderie.
- **Gratitude and Recognition:** Special moments were dedicated to acknowledging the contributions of council members, volunteers, and community partners who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to advance the ROSC mission.

The event served as a reminder of the resilience and strength found within the recovery community. By uniting purpose-driven discussions with moments of celebration, the Heartlife ROSC Council continues to inspire hope and create a supportive environment for all.

### **Outline:**

#### **Attendees Introduction**

- Each attendee introduced themselves and gave update on their upcoming community events and engagements.

#### **State of Illinois Updates and Community Assessment Survey**

- Tarcia provides updates from the state of Illinois, including the community assessment survey that that is now live.
- The survey will be circulated through QR codes, paper copies, social media, and partnerships with local businesses, schools, and churches.
- The importance of gathering data on substance use disorders and the impact on youth, families, and providers is emphasized.

## **Introduction of HLM Upcoming Events and Community Engagement**

- Neesha Stringfellow transitions to discussing upcoming community events and the importance of sharing these opportunities through social media and ROSC partnerships.
- The winter drive for coats and winter wear for the RCC J is mentioned, with donations accepted from December 11 to December 22.
- The importance of the grief and grief care support groups, especially during the holidays, is emphasized.
- Foster Palooza on December 21 at Minooka Junior High is discussed, with Jenny Demko inviting families in need to attend
- The upcoming CPR training sessions, especially during the holidays, are mentioned, with a focus on the importance of knowing how to use Narcan.
- The Circle of Care training for supporting children who have lost loved ones is introduced, with a call for participants to get trained and provide this support in their community.

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Will/Grundy County NAMI**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Will/Grundy Counties is a dedicated grassroots organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness in the Will and Grundy County regions of Illinois. As part of the nationwide NAMI network, we strive to provide critical support, education, advocacy, and resources to those navigating mental health challenges.

Our mission is to raise awareness and ensure that everyone impacted by mental illness—whether directly or indirectly—has access to the care and understanding they deserve. Through free support groups, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives, we foster a sense of connection and empowerment, breaking down stigma and promoting mental health for all.

Whether you are a person living with a mental health condition, a caregiver, or an ally seeking to make a difference, NAMI Will/Grundy Counties welcomes you to join our vibrant community of hope and recovery. Together, we can create a world where mental health is valued, and no one feels alone in their journey.

**Attendees:**

Neesha Stringfellow-Heartlife Ministries  
Tarcia Leak-Heartlife Ministries  
Avery Kyle-Heartlife Ministries  
Ben Rudolph- ROSC Region 2 Mentor  
Henry Tyler-NAMI Will/Grundy  
Cheryl Habeeb-Nami Will-Grundy  
Corinne Broadus-Northern Illinois Recovery  
Cristina -Illinois Family Resource Center  
Ginni Demko-Grundy County  
Alice Crawford-Heartlife Ministries  
Founder  
Dr. Ruby Powell-Oasis Empowerment  
Jacqueline Ramirez  
Dr. Sunya Watson  
Jan Dombrowski-HERO  
Allison Thomas- Rosecrance  
Michelle Pruim -NAMI  
Wesley Stringfellow-Heartlife  
Ministries



